

Application No.: 09/877,744Docket No.: V9661.0019/V9661.0019**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 19 are in the case. Claims 1, 7 – 10, 15, and 17 – 19 were amended. The amendments made to the claims do not narrow the scope of each of the claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the subject application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office action.

Claim 1 was amended to remove the recitation of “the step of.” The amendment made to claim 1 does not narrow the scope of the claim. In view of such claim amendment, the above rejection is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the subject rejection.

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,875,190 to Law, for reasons set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method for providing a first address to a first node in a network having an irregular topology such that the first address includes a description of a path to the first node. The method of the claimed invention comprises establishing a mapping between a plurality of output ports in the network and bits in the first address such that a packet, directed to the first address, at a second node in the network is forwarded via an output port on the second node in the network, in response to a specified bit in the first address having a specified value.

Law, on the other hand, discloses a self-routing, modular, switching arrangement for distributing and concentrating input data packets, which comprises a distribution section and a concentration section. The distribution section is comprised of a stack of distribution networks, each of which has a single input, and N outputs, thus forming a distribution section of a grid of N x N outputs. The distribution network performs several functions including routing, multicasting, group distribution and broadcasting. In a preferred embodiment, the distribution network is implemented by a radix-r tree network, such as shown Fig. 4.

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Law does not disclose the present invention as recited in claim 1. Among other features, *Law* is not directed to self-routing address assignment in a network having "an irregular topology" as recited in the claimed invention. Accordingly, the address assignment and the mapping establishment recited in the claimed invention differ from that in *Law*. Therefore, *Law* does not anticipate the claimed invention.

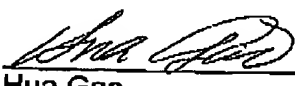
Claims 2 – 7 depend from claim 1 and thus are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Moreover, *Law* does not disclose the features recited in the dependant claims 2 – 7 including but not limited to that "at least one node in the network has more than one address" or "associating an output port in a node to an unused bit in a sub-field corresponding to the node in an address such that in response to a new address for directing a packet to a node in the network, the packet is forwarded via the output port." Furthermore, claims 9 – 19, which were rejected on similar grounds as claims 1 – 7 were, are also believed allowable in view of one or more of the above remarks.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that all the rejections are believed to be overcome. Accordingly, all claims in the subject application are now in condition for allowance. In case the Examiner does not agree with all of applicants' remarks presented above, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the remaining issues to expedite the ultimate allowance of this subject application.

No fee is believed to be due for this Preliminary Amendment. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Respectfully submitted,

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